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1955/04/24

INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

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Control: 13108
Rec'd: APRIL 24, 1955
5:47 A.M.

FROM: SAIGON

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 4776, APRIL 24, 2 P.M.

1. LANSDALE INFORMS US THERE WAS MEETING IN SAIGON APRIL 22 OF STEERING COMMITTEE TO ORGANIZE NEW "NATIONALIST FRONT." THIS FRONT COMPOSED PRINCIPALLY PARTIES IN WHICH BROTHER NHU INTERESTED, PARTY OF HOA HAO GENERAL NHUYEN GIAC NGO, AND CAO DAI PARTIES OF GENERALS PHUONG AND TRINH MINH THE. ALL OF THESE ARE CURRENTLY MORE OR LESS PRO-DIEM. IN ADDITION, NEW FRONT WILL CALL ON OTHER PARTIES TO JOIN.

2. PROGRAM OF NEW FRONT CALLS FOR: (A) UNITY; (B) NON-PARTISAN GOVERNMENT; (C) CABINET OF TECHNICIANS; AND (D) BACKING FOR DIEM PROVIDED HE CHANGES HIS "WORK METHODS."

3. NEW FRONT MAY HAVE DIFFICULTIES SHORTLY INASMUCH AS GENERAL PHUONG BELIEVES VEHEMENTLY BROTHER NHU SHOULD LEAVE COUNTRY FOR BENEFIT ALL CONCERNED. DIEM HAS TELEGRAPHED TRINH MINH THE TO RETURN SOONEST FROM BANDUNG.

KIDDER

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